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**REGULAR NORTH PROVIDENCE SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**SEPTEMBER 25, 2013**  
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The North Providence School Committee met on September 25, 2013 at 6:30 p.m. in the Administration Conference Room at the High School. Members present were Chairman Marciano, Mr. Cataldi, Mr. Iannetta, Mr. Palmieri, Mrs. Picard, Mr. DaSilva and Mr. Andreozzi. Also present were Superintendent Smith, Mr. McNamee, Ms. Jacques and Mr. Henneous. Dr. Carson and Mr. Wright were present for the Regular Session only. Appropriate disclosure was made by the Chair concerning compliance with R.I. General Laws 42-46-(4)&(5) indicating that any person to be discussed had been appropriately notified.

Motion by Mr. DaSilva, seconded by Mrs. Picard and carried to go into open session at 6:30 p.m. The regular session was recessed to go into Executive Session at 6:30 p.m. The open session reconvened at 8:00 p.m.

## **I. CALL TO ORDER**

**The Chair called the meeting to order.**

## **II. SALUTE TO THE FLAG**

**The Chair led the assembly in the pledge of allegiance and a moment of silence.**

**III. CHAIR TO REPORT OUT ANY VOTES TAKEN IN EXECUTIVE SESSION AND RECEIVE MOTION BY COMMITTEE MEMBER TO SEAL EXECUTIVE SESSION+ MINUTES PURSUANT TO APPLICABLE PROVISIONS OF RIGL 42-46-(4) & (5).**

**The Chair reported that there were no votes taken in Executive Session.**

## **IV. CORRESPONDENCE**

**No correspondence was received.**

## **V. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS 3-4.**

**Public comments were received after the Superintendent's Communications.**

## **VI. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

### **1. Superintendent's Communication.**

#### **(2) 2013 RIAEA Outstanding Secondary Art Educator of the Year.**

**Superintendent Smith read correspondence from the RIAEA recognizing Patricia Lucciola as the Outstanding Secondary Art Educator of the Year. The Chair presented her with a Citation and offered congratulations and applause.**

#### **(1) RISCA: Onna Mechanic Holland – 2013-2014 President-elect and Russell Paone – 2013-2014 Secondary Representative**

**Superintendent Smith next recognized two additional staff members, Onna Mechanic-Holland and Russell Paone, who were elected to the RISCA Executive Board as President-elect and Secondary Representative respectively. She read correspondence from the RISCA. Members offered congratulations and applause.**

#### **(3) Graduation Portfolio PBGR- M. Caffrey**

**Superintendent Smith introduced Melissa Caffrey, who oversees the graduation portfolios, to speak regarding the portfolio process. Ms.**

**Caffrey explained that all students are required to complete a portfolio and outlined the areas in the portfolio, which are aligned to the common core. She next introduced four students, Shawna O'Neill, Julia DiPalma, EJ, and Trestin Webbe and asked each student to speak about their portfolio experience in a particular area. Each student spoke about the personal growth and level of confidence they achieved while building their portfolio. Superintendent Smith thanked them for their hard work and members offered congratulations and applause.**

#### **(4) District/School Goals 2013-2014**

**Superintendent Smith spoke about the District Goals and the focus on literacy and math with the addition of two full-time reading positions at the elementary level with a focus on non-fiction readers in addition to piloting a reading program in the middle school. We are also investing in our staff through professional development. Next, Ms. Jacques spoke about the focus on mathematical practices aligned to the common core and the addition of a math consultant, Judy Keeley, and one additional math teacher at the middle school and one at the high school. Superintendent Smith also spoke about the professional development in the area of Science. Next, Mr. Goho spoke on behalf of the high school team about the goals and objectives to improve student achievement in all areas at the high school. Mr. Clarke and Ms. Delasanta next focused on the goals and objectives of the middle schools. Mr. Clarke spoke on behalf of the**

**middle school team about the primary goal of aligning the two middle schools. Ms.Granata spoke on behalf of elementary team consisting of the six elementary school principals, who meet twice a month, to assure that the schools are unified. She spoke about the unified focus in the areas of ELA and Math.**

## **V. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS 3-4.**

**First, Lynne Fontaine, parent of two children in Stephen Olney School, addressed her concerns about the focus on testing vs. teaching. She spoke about her fourth-grade son's struggle with preparing for an excess amount of testing without receiving adequate instruction in preparation for the frequent testing and her frustration with having to figure out each lesson with him to help him prepare for the tests because she cannot access the online tools through MyMath. She cautioned against too much testing without the benefit of meaningful instruction and felt that there is no rigor in the instruction piece. Ms. Jacques spoke about the steps being taken to address the resources available and how to access the sites through the resources pages.**

**Next, Gina Krikorian, parent of three children in the district. She spoke about her concerns with the website and not being able to access the parent portal during the summer. She spoke about the fact that her child completed his assignment on time but was given a**

50 because he did not complete the assignment on the proper paper. She felt that it was unfair that her child was penalized for completing his work on time but not having the right form and her frustration trying to access the form through the parent portal with no success. Superintendent Smith explained that there is some confusion with accessing the portal and Mr. Wright is addressing the issue. Ms. Krikorian next explained that her children had two reports that were due on the first day of school and the fact that only 30% of the children did the assignment and the other 70% of the children who did not complete their reports were given additional time. Superintendent Smith and Ms. Jacques spoke about the fact that all the 100% of the students were given additional time to complete the assignments, not just those who did not complete it and spoke about the miscommunication issues and working with the teachers to assure that everyone was given the extension. Members expressed concerns with taking credit away because the assignment wasn't done on the right form. The Chair felt that there is something wrong with the fact that a student was given a 50 and that someone dropped the ball on that issue. Members asked Ms. Krikorian regarding her inquiry to teachers about the assessment and the various responses that she received regarding the assessment. Members asked for clarification from Ms. Jacques. Ms. Jacques spoke about the statewide alignment and the issue of grading. Members recommended that there be some consistency with respect to the assessment and grading and spoke about incorporating a grading policy and protocol. Ms. Jacques assured the Committee that she

would be following up with the teachers to assure that everyone understands the standards. Ms. Krikorian also asked about the District website and how to tap into the website. Mr. Wright spoke about accessing the website and sending out information to parents about how to access the site and maneuver the website. Ms. Krikorian also spoke about the portfolios and the fact that her daughter had to do a portfolio in the 6th grade at Birchwood which greatly benefited her in the high school. She expressed concern with the fact that the portfolio was eliminated by Birchwood this year.

## **VI. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

### **2. Monthly Financial Report.**

Superintendent Smith asked the Committee to grant advice and consent to approve the Monthly Financial Report as submitted. Motion by Mrs. Picard, seconded by Mr. Iannetta and carried to approve the Monthly Financial Report as submitted. The motion carried by unanimous consent.

### **3. Home Schooling.**

Superintendent Smith asked the Committee to grant the Home Schooling Requests as submitted. Motion by Mr. Iannetta, seconded by Mr. Palmieri and carried by a vote of 4 to 3 to grant the Home

**Schooling Requests as submitted. Mrs. Picard, Mr. Andreozzi and Mr. Cataldi voted nay to the motion.**

#### **4. Field Trips.**

**Superintendent Smith recommended approval of the Field Trip Requests as submitted. Motion by Mr. Iannetta, seconded by Mrs. Picard and carried by unanimous consent to grant the Field Trips as submitted.**

#### **5. Lawn Signs.**

**Superintendent Smith recommended approval of the Boy Scouts' Request to Place Lawn Signs at the Schools as submitted.**

**Motion by Mrs. Picard, seconded by Mr. DaSilva and carried by unanimous consent to approve the Boys Scouts request placing Lawn Signs at School as submitted.**

#### **6. Use of Greystone School Parking Lot.**

**Superintendent Smith recommended approval of the request made by the NP Town Council for use of the Greystone School parking lot. Motion by Mrs. Picard, seconded by Mr. Iannetta to approve the Council's request. Discussion took place regarding the parking issue. Mr. Andreozzi made a motion to remove the chain and lock**



from the parking lot permanently. Mrs. Picard and Mr. Iannetta withdrew their motion. Motion by Mr. Andreozzi, seconded by Mr. Iannetta and carried by unanimous consent to permanently remove the chain and lock from the Greystone School parking lot as presented.

**7. Aramark Educational Services LLC Food Services Contract 2013-2014.**

Superintendent Smith recommended approval of the Aramark Educational Services LLC Food Services Program Contract for 2013-2014. Motion by Mr. Iannetta, seconded by Mr. Andreozzi and carried by unanimous consent to approve the Contract as submitted.

**8. District Student Transportation Policy.**

Superintendent Smith spoke about the transportation policy and asked for permission to look at the policy and bring back some suggested changes to the Policy based on some issues with buses having to wait extended periods of time for parents to pick up their children at the bus stops. Motion by Mr. Iannetta, seconded by Mrs. Picard and carried by unanimous consent to authorize the Superintendent to look at the Policy and bring back suggestions to address various issues.

**9. Student Information Systems Update.**

**Mr. Wright spoke about the student information system. He spoke about the system being outdated over the years. There are some concerns with the data and the need to update the system to update the system. He spoke about the Department of Education's RFP to address the needs of the individual districts. We would like to begin the process of looking at the products.**

#### **19. Video Streaming Meetings.**

**Superintendent Smith spoke about the video-streaming the meetings to allow them to be viewed on the website. Mr. Wright spoke about the capabilities to place the meetings on the website. Members authorized Superintendent Smith to begin the process of looking into the possibility of video streaming the School Committee meetings through the District Website.**

### **VII. SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORTS.**

**No reports were received.**

### **VIII. REQUESTS TO ADDRESS COMMITTEE**

**1. Discussion re: Temporary Position of Truant Officer – D. Cataldi.**

**This item was placed on hold.**

**2. Motion to Request the Following Information on a Monthly Basis –**

**D. Cataldi.**

- a. Savings on maintenance to date**
- b. Expenditures on maintenance to date**
- c. Any and all outside vendors used to date**
- d. Info on High School 2nd floor foyer repairs; work completed, cost of project, bid, company completing work**
- e. Other purchases and cost, bids – i.e. office furniture (past 9 months)**

**Mr. Cataldi spoke about his request for a detailed report of what the maintenance merger would entail and the fact that he recently found out that the school department was going out to bid for snow removal when it was his understanding that the Public Works would be responsible for the snow removal. Also, there was work done over the summer in the schools that should have gone out to bid but didn't. The Committee was not informed.**

**Motion by Mr. Cataldi, seconded by Mrs. Picard and carried by unanimous consent that the Committee be notified on a monthly basis of any maintenance issue that directly affects our budget, including expenditures, bids, outside contractors or any other issue that affects our budget. The Chair spoke about dialog with the Town about the Town covering the plowing and felt that it was his**

**understanding that they would cover the plowing and that it is important to get clarification.**

### **3. School Committee Documentation Regarding Votes Taken – G. Picard.**

**Mrs. Picard felt that it is important to let the public have access to the votes taken at the meetings to be available to the teachers, parents, and faculty. Motion by Mrs. Picard, seconded by Mr. Iannetta and carried by unanimous consent that Superintendent Smith provide communication to the teachers, faculty, staff and parents through the website regarding the votes taken at each meeting.**

### **4. MMS/Parent Portal – G. Picard.**

**This item was removed from the Agenda because as of today, she was able to access the portal.**

### **5. Detailed Report of Finances for Schools – S. Palmieri.**

**Mr. Palmieri spoke about having three or four items that are all tied together. He spoke about a student who came to his house selling raffle tickets. After making some calls, no one knew anything about the raffle tickets. He expressed concern with pressuring students to sell raffle tickets in order to play sports. Motion by Mr. Palmieri to get rid of the fundraising and fund the school sports. Further discussion**

took place and Mr. Williams spoke about the misinformation that Mr. Palmieri received. He outlined the funds received through the gate receipts and other revenues and spoke about the fact that there are no protocols in place with respect to fundraising. Further discussion took place and some members expressed concerns with micromanaging where the money is spent. Members felt that Mr. Williams has done a great job with the fundraising and spoke about the fact that the gate money is from all the gates, not just the high school. Mr. McNamee outlined some of the uses of the money and spoke about the fact that they are generally unrestricted funds unless an external restriction is placed on the funds, such as fundraising for cheerleaders being limited to use for cheerleaders. Members spoke about the fact that there are some protocols in place with respect to use of the money, such as using funds for the athletics and capital improvements. Motion by Mr. Palmieri, seconded by Mrs. Picard and carried by a vote of 5 to 2 to update the procedures and protocols for activities funds and provide guidance and protocols for fundraising. Mr. DaSilva and Mr. Cataldi voted nay to the motion.

## **IX. NEW BUSINESS**

### **1. Bids.**

**No bids were received.**

## **2. Resignations.**

**Superintendent Smith asked the Committee to grant advice and consent to the Resignation as submitted. Motion by Mrs. Picard, seconded by Mr. Iannetta and carried by unanimous consent to grant advice and consent to the Resignation(s) as submitted. The motion carried by unanimous consent.**

## **3. Retirements.**

**No retirements were received.**

## **4. Leaves of Absence.**

**Superintendent Smith asked the Committee to grant advice and consent to the Leaves of Absence as submitted. Motion by Mrs. Picard, seconded by Mr. Andreozzi and Mr. Cataldi and carried by unanimous consent to approve the Leave of Absence Requests as submitted.**

## **5. Layoff(s)/Non-Renewal(s)**

**There were no Layoff(s)/Non-Renewals.**

## **6. Appointments.**

**Superintendent Smith asked for the advice and consent of the Committee to approve the appointment of Jeanne Burdett – Reading Specialist – District-Wide 2nd Step/MA + 30 Effective September 16, 2013, Brenda Corcelli, Middle School Secretary at Birchwood School and Matthew Guerra – Secondary Math Teacher – North Providence High School – Long-/Term Substitute – 1st Step/Masters Effective September 26, 2013 for the remainder of the 2013/2014 School Year. Motion by Mr. Iannetta, seconded by Mrs. Picard and Mr. DaSilva and carried to grant advice and consent to the Appointments as presented. The motion carried by unanimous consent.**

**The Chair asked the appointees to stand and receive recognition and applause.**

## **7. Layoff Recisions.**

**No Layoff Recisions were received.**

## **8. Displacements.**

**No Displacements were received.**

## **X. OLD BUSINESS**

**No Old Business was presented.**

## **XI. USE OF PROPERTY**

**Superintendent Smith asked for guidance regarding several Use of Property Requests, including the Request by Deanna Parrillo for North Providence High School – Health & Wellness – Yoga Classes. Motion by Mr. Cataldi, seconded by Mr. Iannetta to waive the cost. Discussion took place regarding the fact that even though a teacher made the request for the space, there is a charge for the Yoga and therefore there should be a charge for the space. After further discussion, Mr. Cataldi and Mr. Iannetta withdrew their motion. Motion by Mrs. Picard, seconded by Mr. Andreozzi and Mr. Iannetta and carried by a vote of 6-1 to charge \$50.00 for the Use of Property Request by Deanna Parrillo – Teacher for Yoga Classes. Mr. DaSilva voted nay to the motion.**

**Superintendent Smith brought to the attention of the School Committee the request by Project Close-Up. Motion by Mr. Iannetta, seconded by Mrs. Picard and carried by unanimous consent to waive the fees for the Use of Property Request for NPHS Project Close-Up Pancake Breakfast.**

**Next was Dance Aerobics by Patricia Bellini for a No-Charge Exercise**



**Class for our Community. Motion by Mr. Iannetta, seconded by Mrs. Picard and carried by unanimous consent to waive the fees for the Use of Property Request by Patricia Bellini for Dance Aerobics.**

**Next was the Dance Workshop Dance Recitals by Lisa Gallagher. She recommended that the Use of Property be denied based on the fact that it is for Use of Property after the school is closed for the summer. Mr. Gallagher asked to address the Committee regarding the request and spoke about the fact that his wife has requested and been granted the Use of Property for the last 28 years. Motion by Mr. DaSilva, seconded by Mrs. Picard and carried by unanimous consent to grant the Use of Property Request by Lisa Gallagher for the Dance Workshop Dance Recitals. He also asked that the event be grandfathered in as far as the increase in the rates for the Use of Property based on the fact that she has been granted the Use of Property for the last 28 years. Members of the Committee took it under advisement based on the fact that it was not on the Agenda.**

**Next was the Girl Scouts Request. Motion by Mrs. Picard, seconded by Mr. Palmieri and carried by unanimous consent to grant the Use of Property Request by the Girl Scouts of Rhode Island.**

**Motion by Mrs. Picard, seconded by Mr. Palmieri and carried by unanimous consent to approve the remainder of the Use of Property Requests as submitted.**

## **XII. APPROVAL OF BILLS**

**Superintendent Smith recommended approval of the September 2013 List of Bills as presented and submitted to the Committee. Motion by Mrs, Picard, seconded by Mr. Iannetta and carried to approve the September 2013 List of Bills as presented. Mr. Andreozzi voted nay to the motion. The motion carried by a vote of 6 to 1.**

## **XIII. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Motion by Mrs. Picard, seconded by Mr. Iannetta and carried to approve and seal the Minutes of the August 19, 2013 and August 28, 2013 School Committee Executive Sessions as submitted. The motion carried by unanimous consent.**

**Motion by Mrs. Picard, seconded by Mr. Iannetta and carried to approve the Minutes of the August 19, 2013 and August 28, 2013 School Committee Meetings as submitted. The motion carried by unanimous consent.**

## **XIV. PUBLIC COMMENTS IN AGENDA ITEMS 7 - 13.**

**No public comments were received.**

## **XV. PENDING BUSINESS**

**No pending business was discussed.**

## **XVI. ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion by Mrs. Picard, seconded by Mr. Iannetta and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 10:22 p.m.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Margie Caranci**

**Recording Secretary of the North Providence  
School Committee**

**Date Submitted to Committee:**

**Date Approved by the Committee:**